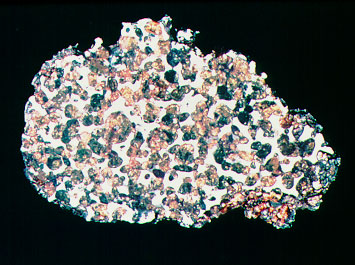
Meteorite or Earth Rock???

 From the book The Deception Point I learned quite a bit about meteorites and what to look for in them. There are different types of meteorites: iron-core, stony iron and stony. Iron-core meteorites are shiny blobs of greyish black iron that look quite extraterrestrial. Stony Iron meteorites have a greenish tint, and the cross-section looks like “*a collage of colourful angular fragments resembling a kaleidoscopic puzzle”* (p.g. 111, par. 8) The green luster is caused by the high olivine content in stony iron meteorites. The last type of meteorite is the stony meteorite. These closely resemble igneous terrestrial stones and are hard to spot because of it. 90% of the meteorites found on Earth are stony meteorites. There are different ways to tell an earth rock apart from a meteorite. All meteorites have a charred outer layer called the fusion crust. This is the result of the extreme heating that the meteorite undergoes as it falls through Earth’s atmosphere. Another way to tell if you have found a meteorite is that only meteorites have chondrules. Chondrules are little metallic globules found peppered across the cross section of a meteorite. These are things you could look for if you think you have found a meteorite, but if you are still not convinced that you have a meteorite, and you happen to have a petro-graphing polarizing microscope, an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer or an induction-coupled plasma spectrometer, then you could measure the chemical content. “*In earth rocks, the mineral nickel occurs in either extremely high percentages or extremely low; nothing in the middle. In meteorites, though, the nickel content falls within a midrange set of values. Therefore, if we analyze a sample and find the nickel content reflects a midrange value, we can guarantee beyond the shadow of a doubt that the sample is a meteorite.”* (p.g. 116, par 3) These are some ways you could identify a meteorite if you think you have found one.